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NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

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NEWHAVEN.

June 10th, 1944

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

To the Members of the Newhaven Urban District Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December 1943.

During the year 1943 the general health of the District was good, and there was freedom from serious infectious disease, although there was a considerable increase in cases of measles.

The crude death rate was 16.4 compared with 14.7 in 1942.

The senile mortality was 57 compared with 63 in 1942

The chief causes of death were Cerebral Haemorrhage 20; Heart disease 19 and cancer 12. The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .4 compared with .58 in 1942.

The Birth Rate was 22.27 compared with 20.7 in 1942. There were 15 illegitimate births, and there were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality of 64 compared with 47 in 1942.

Twenty Nine cases of infectious disease were treated at the Isolation Hospital. There was one death from malignant Scarlet Fever.

Social Conditions of the District

The chief industries in the District are as follows:-

Southern Railway Company.
Dock & Harbour Works.
Building Trades.
Valentine Pen Company.

Many workers are also employed at the Alpha Cement Works situated a short distance outside the district.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council for their unfailing courtesy, and to Officials for the ready aid extended to me in the performance of my duties.

I am, Madam & Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(signed) Rodie Parkhurst.

Medical Officer of Health.

Newhaven
10th June, 1944.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	1766 acres.
Population - Census 1931.. ...	7383
Rateable value	£44,438.
Sum produced by a penny rate	£168.13.5½.

2. EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Births. Legitimate M -45 F - 50 } Total 110
Illegitimate M -10 F - 5 }

Still births. M - 1 F - 3 Total 4

Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births - 64
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth - Nil

Deaths from Zymotic disease - Nil.

3. NOTIFICABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1943

During the year 1943 there were 81 cases of notifiable disease, excluding Tuberculosis - they were as follows:- Measles 72, Diphtheria 1, scarlet fever 6, pneumonia 1, whooping cough 1.

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1943, WITH AGE PERIOD

Ages	Measles	Diphtheria	Scarlet. Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Total
0-1	1	1				2
0-5	22		3		1	26
5-15	44		3			47
15-25	3					3
25-35	2					2
35-45						
45-55						
55-65						
65 & over				1		1
Total	72	1	6	1	1	81

TABLE OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1943 AND DEATHS THEREFROM

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1					1			
5								
15	1							
25		1		1		1		
35		1						
45	1							
55								
65 & Over								
Total	2	2		1	1	1		

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Apart from Measles, there were no particular causes of sickness during the year 1943. The total number of infectious diseases notified was 81 as compared with 16 in 1942. There were 6 cases of scarlet fever, 72 of measles and 1 of diphtheria. The crude death rate was 16.4. as compared with 14.7 in 1942. The senile mortality was 57 as compared with 63 in 1942. The infantile mortality was 64 as compared with 47 in 1942.

The Birth Rate was 22.27 as compared with 20.7 in 1942.

The chief causes of death were as follows: Heart disease 19, Cerebral Haemorrhage 20, and Cancer 12.

5. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL & OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT

The Newhaven and District Nursing Association supply two Queen's Nurses and one Health Visitor. One Queen's Nurse carries out the general nursing of the district and part of the Rural District; the other Queen's Nurse is midwife for the Town, and gives relief duty to the other nurses when needed. The health visiting is carried out by the Health Visitor. The nursing is carried out by the Local Authority assisted by a grant from the County Council. There is also a maternity and child welfare centre; meetings are held where mothers can attend with their infants for instruction in their upbringing. This centre is carried on by the Health Visitor assisted by the Town Midwives.

CLINICS The Health Visitor attends the School Clinic and also the Dental and Eye Clinic held at the schools, under the arrangements made by the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES A motor ambulance is provided by the Lewes, Newhaven & Seaford Joint Hospital Board for the conveyance of infectious diseases to the Isolation Hospital and an up-to-date motor ambulance is provided by the Newhaven Urban District Nursing Association for the removal of non-infectious diseases and accident cases, This ambulance is available for use in the Urban District and outlying districts.

HOSPITALS There is no hospital in the district for the treatment of Tuberculosis. The Isolation Hospital is provided for the reception of infectious diseases occuring in the Town and Port, and from Districts represented by the Joint Hospital Board. This Hospital receives a grant from the County Council under the condition that cases should be received from certain outlying districts should their own hospitals be full. The Smallpox Hospital is the East Sussex Western Hospital situated at Chailey, to which the Newhaven Urban District Council contributes a subsidy.

There is no Maternity or Childrens Hospital in the District, nor any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION During the year 1943 I arranged for circulars to be distributed throughout the District urging on parents the necessity of having their children immunised against diphtheria, and informing them of the days and hours at which immunisation could be obtained free of cost at the surgeries of the Doctors in the District.

It has been somewhat difficult to estimate the number of children who have been immunised as a considerable number received the treatment during evacuation. Accordingly I made a point at the annual school examination of ascertaining how many children had been immunised and found as follows: Of children under 5 years of age 69 out of 97 or 71% had been immunised, and of children from 5 to 15 years of age 177 out of 252 or 70% had been immunised.

VENEREAL DISEASE Posters are displayed in the Public conveniences and other places in the district warning the public of the danger of venereal disease and also giving a list of the hospitals and the hour at which free and confidential treatment and advice can be obtained.

A lecture on the subject illustrated by films was given at the local Cinema during the year, and ships' crews received handbills.

HEAD LICE Children attending the school clinic are inspected. Other children are examined and parents advised by visiting nurses.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL-JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD This Hospital is in a satisfactory condition; a new cubical block and fresh drainage would, however, be a great improvement. During the year 1943 the number of cases under treatment was 29 and I append a table of the cases treated.

District	Diphtheria & Suspected.	Scarlet Fever & suspected.	Measles.	Total
Lewes	5	7		12
Newhaven	2	6	1	9
Seaford		5		5
Military & Naval.		2	1	3

6. LABORATORY WORK No Bacteriological or Pathological examinations are undertaken locally, but arrangements are in force with Dr.Shere, East Sussex County Mental Hospital, Hellingly, Sussex for the examination of all specimens, the charge for which is borne by the Newhaven Urban District Council. All Medical Practitioners in the district are supplied with diphtheria anti-toxin free of cost.

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA - LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890 parts i,ii,iii
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Acts 1890.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907. Parts iv,vi,ix and x section 15-22 inclusive and 28 and 31,32,33 of part 2 and section 81 of part 7.

8. WATER SUPPLY

The district has two sources of water supply.

1. From the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom.
2. From the Southern Railway Company's well at Denton.

Both of these water supplies have been analysed regularly, and quarterly reports show them to be of good quality - there is also a sufficient quantity. Both supplies are constant and all dwellings are served with service pipes direct to the houses. There is no lead contamination.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION All premises in the district are provided with closets connected with the sewer, with the following exceptions:-

Premises with cesspools:	West Pier	3
	Cemetery	1
	Eourt Farm Cottages. ...	3
	Harbour Heights estate.	46
	Added area	185
Premises with Earth Closets.	Meeching Court Farm ...	5
	New Road	17
	Golf House	1
	Fort Glacis...	1
	Bungalow, Church Hill ...	1
	Denton Village	32

SCAVENGING House refuse is disposed of by the Bradford Tipping System, buried daily, and proved to be satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT AND THE WORK OF THE INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR 1943

The following is the number of houses visited by the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1943:-

In connection with Infectious disease ...	20
Various	17

Abstract from the Sanitary Inspector's report:-

The Sanitary Inspector carries out regular inspections of the District and I subjoin extracts from his report. The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 1943 he has made 1,679 visits in connection with his work. In respect of these visits 57 informal notices were served, 21 verbal instructions were given and no formal notices were served. Complaints during the year numbered 72, all of which were dealt with and the conditions remedied. I append a table of the number and nature of the inspections carried out during the year 1943:-

Housing -	Inspections under the Public Health Acts	39
	Visits " " " "	39
	Inspections under the Housing Acts	70
	Visits " " "	112
	Verminous premises - Inspections.	32
	Visits.	48
	Fumigations.	23
Miscellaneous housing visits.	... ...	5
Infectious Disease -	Enquiries and visits	36
	Disinfections.	19
Visits in respect of	Water, including emergency supplies ...	51
	Drainage	81
	Stables and Piggeries	10
	Common Lodging Houses	24
	Houses let in lodgings	1
	Factories	31
	Workplaces	1
	Bakehouses	70
	Conveniences.	163
	Theatres	5
	Refuse Collection	12
	Refuse Disposal.	37
	Rats & Mice	77
	Miscellaneous	165
	Meat and Food -	295
	Cowsheds	41
	Dairies	20
	Milk Sampling	9
	Miscellaneous Food (Decontam: etc) ...	94
	Salvage	42
	Deputy for Surveyor	27
		1679

SUMMARY OF WORK AFTER SERVICE OF NOTICE

Water closets new	1
Water closets repaired	6
Cesspools cleaned	9
Drainage system new	1
Drains cleared or repaired	11
Accumulations of refuse removed.. ...	9
Cooking ranges repaired	3
Rooms of dwelling houses cleaned. ...	9
Dustbins provided	6
Sinks repaired	2
Roofs repaired	6
Chimney stacks repaired	1
Dampness remedied	1
Food Stores provided	1
Front door repaired	1
Shed removed -,housing animals... ...	1
Gas Service - leaing.	1
Premises cleared of rats	7
	77

SHOPS & OFFICES
All shops and offices are regularly inspected and with the exception of minor items are found to be satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

(1) Number of houses infested ... Council Houses 1
Other houses 22
(2) Method employed to disinfest... Cimex Cubes.
Lethane 10% solution with paraffin is also being used.
(3) All furniture and effects successfully disinfested.
(4) All occupiers instructed by the Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS The Sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory, and the water supply is good and adequate. There is a need for the provision of a new school in the district, as since the admission of the scholars from Peacehaven it has been necessary in the Boys' School to hold two classes in one room, which is not a satisfactory condition.

All cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever are removed to the Isolation Hospital, and contacts excluded for the prescribed period. Notices of non-notifiable diseases are sent to the Medical Officer of Health by the Head Teachers so that any steps considered advisable may be taken.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. Lodging Houses There is only one Lodging House in the district. This is licensed for the reception of 43 people and inspections of the premises are carried out.

2. Dairies There are three dairy farms in the District and the conditions generally have been found satisfactory during the inspections which are carried out regularly. The Sanitary Inspector has made 41 cowshed inspections during the year and given three informal notices, and 20 dairy inspections and given one informal notice. There are now only 7 registered retailers and 2 wholesaler traders for the sale of milk.

3. Slaughter of Animals Under Government Central Slaughtering, this is carried out at Brighton for this District. All pigs slaughtered for local pig clubs are examined.

FOOD

A. Milk Supply The premises from which milk is supplied retail to the district receives special attention. Samples were taken from three producers and one retail trader. Of 6 from producers, one was unsatisfactory and of three from retailers, two were unsatisfactory, and the Sanitary Authority in the district of supply was informed. The supplies in each case became satisfactory after supervision and advice.
B. Other Foods All premises where food is prepared for sale are inspected regularly, and their condition has been found to be satisfactory except in some minor detail when verbal instructions have sufficed to better conditions. There are 5 bakehouses in the District all of which are above ground.

The Public Health Officers of the District consist of a Medical Officer of Health, part-time, and a Sanitary Inspector full time. The staff of the Isolation Hospital comprises a Matron, two assistant nurses, one probationer nurse, one cook and one maid and a caretaker.

The Hospital is governed by the Lewes, Newhaven & Seaford Joint Hospital Board, and the Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Superintendent.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was taken under these regulations during the year.

I append a table of general satistics for the past 10 years.

	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Population est:to middle of year.	-	5129	4993	6889	7112	7062	6989	7060	6989	6936
Birth rate per 1000 population.	22.27	20.7	17.	15.2	15.3	15.0	15.1	12.6	13.7	14.7
Death rate of infants 1 year per 1000 births	64	47	70	57	18	nil	66	22.5	10.4	20
Crude death rate per 1000 population	16.4	14.7	15	14.8	12.6	11.9	10.3	11.7	12.4	11.5
Adjusted death rate per 1000 p'Lation	-	-	-	13.6	11.5	10.9	9.47	10.7	-	-
Zymotic death rate per 100	-	-	.2	-	-	0.14	0.14	0.25	0.14	-
Death rate from Pulmonary tuberculosis per 1000	.1	.58	.4	.29	.56	.56	.4	.4	.7	.43
Death rate from other respiratory diseases per 1000	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.7	1	.4	.7	.8	1.6	1.4
Senile Mortality Deaths at 65 and over as percentage of total deaths.	57	63	56	44	58	60.7	52.8	61.7	48	62.8

DISINFECTION Premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred are disinfected with formalin. In cases of cancer of tuberculosis, disinfection is carried out after removal of the patient. Infected bedding and clothing are treated at the Isolation Hospital in the steam disinfector.

SANITARY OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health - Rodie Parkhurst M.B., C.M.Edin.

Sanitary Inspector - S.V.Needham C.S.I.B, C.R.S.I., D.R.I.P.H.H., Inspector of meat and other foods.

(signed) Rodie Parkhurst.

Medical Officer of Health.

Newhaven.
10th June, 1944.